

Threats Are Linked to Ex-Policeman

By **WALTER RUGABER**
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NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 20—The authorities obtained a Federal warrant today charging a 29-year-old former policeman with multiple threats to kill President Nixon during his visit here.

A complaint by the Secret Service accused Edwin Michael Gaudet, who served in the New Orleans Police Department from 1964 to 1967, with offering to kill the President if "no one has the guts."

The police and Federal authorities here indicated this afternoon that there was no established link between the alleged threats and a possible conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Nixon.

That alleged plot, about which few details were available, led to the cancellation of a five-block motorcade along Canal Street to the Rivergate Convention Center where the President delivered a speech.

Mr. Nixon made the address, to the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, amid tight security precautions. He approached the convention center from New Orleans In-

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complaint said that Mr. Gaudet had been at the same place on at least three prior occasions in the last two weeks.

"The subject complained about the current state of the national economy, that he was unable to feed his family under present conditions," the Secret Service charged. "He stated that if he had a gun he would kill President Nixon and made specific references to doing this during President Nixon's visit to New Orleans on Aug. 20, 1973."

Previous Nixon Incident

Mr. Gaudet resigned from the New Orleans Police Department on July 25, 1967, after a 67-day suspension and disciplinary proceedings that arose from his off-duty involvement in a fight at a French Quarter establishment.

On Oct. 31, 1970, he was arrested when he threw a burning American flag at Mr. Nixon's limousine during a Presidential visit to New Orleans. He was charged with desecration of the flag and received a six-month suspended sentence.

This incident followed an arrest in August, 1970, when Mr. Gaudet tried to burn a small flag during a peace demonstration on the City Hall steps here. He forfeited a cash bond.

Last July 6, Mr. Gaudet was arrested on charges of possessing marijuana "with the intent to distribute." On this charge, the police records show,

he again received a six-month suspended sentence.

The police refused to provide details of Mr. Gaudet's activities or whereabouts since he left the Police Department. A 1970 photograph shows him with long brown curly hair and a goatee. He once gave his occupation as a "seaman."

The authorities said they not only could not link the Gaudet case with the assassination conspiracy announced by the Secret Service in Washington but also could not link it with two other bizarre happenings in the last 24 hours.

Police Uniform Stolen

At 10:30 P.M. yesterday, a police uniform—trousers, shirt, badge and name plate—was stolen from an automobile in the lower Algiers section of the city. The items belonged to an officer named Bennett La Cour.

At about 2 A.M. today, the office automobile of Police Superintendent Clarence B. Giarrusso was stolen from in front of his residence in another part of the Algiers section.

Mr. Giarrusso was alerted to the theft by his daughter. He attempted to give chase in a private family car but quickly lost the thieves.

The car was recovered near

Lake Pontchartrain at about 8 A.M. today. A police spokesman said that nothing had been taken from the vehicle and that it had not been damaged or sabotaged.

Mr. Giarrusso declined to say at a news conference this afternoon whether the police or the Federal authorities had any suspects in the reported assassination plot or the taking of his car or the theft of the uniform.

"For approximately a week we have been working on an attempt to assassinate the President," the superintendent said. As of now we do not have what we regard as sufficient evidence to resolve the case."

The superintendent said the decision to switch the President's route was made in Washington before the two unexplained thefts occurred.

Police barricades were erected this morning along the original route around Canal Street, and people gathered behind them at midday even though the motorcade had been called off.

The convention center was patrolled by an unusually large number of Secret Service agents. The Presidential procession was also guarded by motorcycle policemen and overhead by a Coast Guard helicopter.

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ternational Airport over an undisclosed route.

While most bystanders here caught only the barest glimpse of the President's limousine as it flashed by, Mr. Nixon turned briefly to a friendly crowd outside the convention center to shake hands.

The Secret Service complaint against Mr. Gaudet, which was sealed to prevent disclosing the names of witnesses against him, charged that he had "knowingly, willfully and unlawfully" threatened the President.

The accusation was brought under the Federal criminal statutes, which provide for penalties of up to five years in prison and a \$1,000 fine upon conviction. Mr. Gaudet was not immediately apprehended.

The Secret Service charged that "on or about Aug. 15" Mr. Gaudet went to a public establishment in New Orleans, the name of which was withheld, and declared:

"Somebody ought to kill President Nixon. If no one else has the guts, I'll do it." The



Associated Press

Mr. Nixon used car at right after plan to ride open car down Canal Street was dropped for security reasons